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**From:** EPAREsearchCompass [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C1E8F11508674C3C954553A1129D33E5-EPARESEARCH]  
**Sent:** 11/3/2015 6:06:07 PM  
**To:** ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c735272eef941588aefd9a05ed28823-ORD-ALL Feds and NonFeds and RSLs]  
**CC:** Lackey, Leila [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d8ab4e3dff0b4efa80fd29a0653f6af9-Lackey, Lei]; lomax, bonnie [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=f55991bc192747739fc08b7322db5078-Blomax]; Guerry, Jacqueline B [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=66b1753d6334468aa7c7731b615ab959-Jguerry]; frankel, michael [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=684951a4ac834c90a24d85afce045ddb-Mfrankel]; Landy, Ronald [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=65ae346ac257456eaa3144f63016fb76-Rlandy]  
**Subject:** Weekly Compass: November 3, 2015



Weekly Update: 11/03/2015

Welcome to the Weekly Compass, your gateway to information about recent and upcoming ORD activities. If you have ideas for the Weekly Compass, please send them to the editors. To see each full article on ORD@work, please click on the text that is hyperlinked.

## Quick Updates

- Visit OPM's online resource center for up-to-date information regarding the OPM incidents.
- Donate to the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign, go to <http://www.cfcnc.org/>, and click "Donate Now"! Help ORD reach its goal of \$66,896.
- Take the mandatory Records Management training by November 30, 2015: <https://epa.skillport.com/>, While you're doing that you'll notice that we've been upgraded to a new version (Skillport 8), which offers new ways to navigate the system from any computer at any time. Soon you will also be able to access the eLearning Portal from your government issued or personal mobile device.
- Check out ORD's New Employee Orientation website.

- Phased Retirement information sessions were announced by the Office of Administration and Resources Management. For more information, visit the Phased Retirement intranet site.
- 2015 Federal Benefits Open Season begins Monday, November 9 and continues through Monday, December 14, 2015.
- Deadline for Scheduling 2015 "Use or Lose" Leave: November 28, 2015.
- The manuscript, "Estimating Potential Increased Bladder Cancer Risk Due to Increased Bromide Concentrations in Sources of Disinfected Drinking Waters," published in Environmental Science & Technology, is a collaborative effort between ORD and OW. The study estimates potential increased excess lifetime bladder cancer risk as a function of increased source water bromide levels.
- In Case You Missed it: EPA Town Hall with Administrator McCarthy recording.
- Adobe Connect URL has changed! Update your links before November 19, 2015.
- Read the latest *"It All Starts with Science"* blog post.
- Upcoming webinars:
  - Human Subjects and Technology Transfer: Thursday, November 5, 8:30-10 am ET

## Faces of ORD: NERL's Breanne Benton

### In the Lab:

#### Survey Research Session, November 10

Conducting a survey? The Human Subjects Research Training Program is holding a Survey Research Session on November 10, from 11am-2pm at Potomac Yard South-11771. Remote access is available. The full schedule of training sessions (as well as remote access information) can be found here: <http://intranet.ord.epa.gov/p2/general/2015-2016-session-topics-and-summaries>. Questions? Contact Toby Schonfeld, the Agency's Human Subjects Research Review Official.

#### NRMRL Support for Region 2 Call on Wood Preservatives

On October 22, Ground Water Technical Support Center (GWTSC) Director David Burden provided advice and support to Region 2 on pentachlorophenol leaching into soils from utility poles and possible impacts to groundwater on Long Island, NY. Used as a wood preservative, pentachlorophenol is known to be toxic and is a probable human carcinogen. Installed on parts of Long Island after Hurricane Sandy destroyed existing poles, the new poles began to "weep" pentachlorophenol down the sides to the ground surface. Region 2 requested GWTSC assistance in running EPA's SESOIL model (a statistical mathematical model for estimating pollutant distribution in an unsaturated soil column) to predict whether contaminants from poles will leach into the groundwater. David is in the process of gathering model parameters and soil data collected by Region 2 to run the SESOIL model. In a March 2015 press release, New York Senator Charles E. Schumer called on the EPA to investigate the use of pentachlorophenol on utility poles throughout Long Island and urged the utility company to immediately suspend further use of this chemical until a federal study is complete.

#### Homeland Security Research on Decontamination of *Burkholderia pseudomallei* Published

NHSRC's Worth Calfee, co-authored *"Inactivation of Burkholderia pseudomallei on environmental surfaces using spray-applied, common liquid disinfectants"*, published in the *Letters in Applied*

*Microbiology*. The article discusses the ability of five commercially-available, spray-delivered, liquid antimicrobials to decontaminate common environmental surface materials contaminated with the biothreat agent, *Burkholderia pseudomallei*. This data can help responders develop effective remediation strategies following an environmental contamination incident involving *B. pseudomallei* (which occurred earlier this year at the Tulane National Primate Center).

## **NSF/EPA/DOE Energy Positive Report Release**

The final report from the Energy-Positive Water Resources Recovery workshop, jointly hosted by EPA, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and DOE on April 28-29, 2015 has been released. The workshop promoted discussion between municipalities, government, industry, and other key stakeholders on accelerating the development and use of water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs). Read the report.

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## **Who's Traveling:**

### **SETAC Annual Meeting**

Over 70 EPA employees will attend, present research, and network at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) annual meeting in Salt Lake City, UT, November 1-5. The SETAC meeting provides a forum where professionals from academia, industry, and government exchange information and ideas for the development and use of multidisciplinary scientific principles and practices leading to sustainable environmental quality. Presentations will include integrating ecological integrity and human health to improve environmental public health outcomes; ecosystem services; estuarine fish following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, among others. NERL scientist Elin Ulrich is a co-chair for the Program Committee that organized the meeting, working alongside 22 committee members including OAR and OCSPP employees Nicole Hagan and Emma Lavoie.

### **APHA Annual Meeting**

Several EPA researchers are presenting sessions and posters during the APHA annual meeting. Information on the sessions can be found [here](#). Additionally, Dr. Burke is participating in a panel session: Past and Present: A Look at Advancements in the Field of Environmental Health from three Federal Agency Perspectives.

### **NRMRL scientist to represent the United States at American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Technical Advisory Group; Ghana, West Africa**

From November 3-6, Jim Jetter, the project leader for a working group developing standards for laboratory testing of cookstoves, will represent the United States as a delegate of the ANSI Technical Advisory Group at the second plenary meeting of the International Standards Organization (ISO) Technical Committee 285, Clean Cookstoves and Clean Cooking Solutions. Jim will also participate in two panels at the Clean Cooking Forum, sponsored by the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, November 10-13. The two panels are "New Developments in Lab and Field Testing" and "ISO Standards and WHO Guidelines."

### **NHEERL Researcher To Present at Educational Seminars for Regulatory Agencies**

Walter Berry has been invited by the Health, Environment, and Sustainable Development Program of the International Copper Association, Ltd., to participate in a series of educational

seminars for regulatory agencies in Japan and China, November 6-15. The seminars will update environmental and resource agencies on the latest science on the bioavailability of copper and other metals, especially in marine waters and sediments.

### **EPA participates in USG Biodefense Review**

NHSRC's Dr. Tonya Nichols and OHS represented EPA at a White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Security Staff policy committee to assess the US Government's preparedness for a biological agent incident (natural and man-made). The purpose of the assessment was to provide senior leaders in the White House (current and future Administrations) the status of the biodefense posture and to assess research gaps.

### **Advancing Children's Health for a Lifetime**

Research from the network of the NIEHS- and EPA-supported Children's Environmental Health & Disease Prevention Research Centers was featured at a special Congressional briefing last week. The briefing was hosted by Representatives Renee L. Ellmers (R-NC) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC), and co-sponsored by the Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the American Thoracic Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Endocrine Society. It was followed by the Children's Centers annual meeting which included presentations and discussions that explore connections between research findings, clinical and community practice, and child protective policies.



*Left to right: Dr. Rob McConnell (USC), Dr. Linda Birnbaum (NIEHS Director), Dr. Catherine Metayer (UC Berkeley), Dr. Bradley Peterson (Children's Hospital of Los Angeles), and Dr. Tom Burke.*

### **In the Office:**

#### **Take the Mandatory Freedom of Information Act Training by December 30**

In order to assist all EPA personnel to better understand the Freedom of Information Act and their roles in the agency process, EPA launched mandatory annual FOIA training on October 28. The training is available in eLearning and takes about 30 minutes to complete. FOIA Officers and FOIA Coordinators are available in each Region and Program Office to answer questions and resolve issues. A list of FOIA Coordinators is available on the FOIA intranet site. An alternate

text version of the training is available at: <http://intranet.epa.gov/foia>. The training must be completed by December 30, 2015.

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## **Accolades:**

### **NRMRL Scientist Receives OPP Honor Award**

Mike Kosusko, a member of the Pesticide Drift Reduction Technology (DRT) Program Team, has been awarded The James W. Craig Pollution Prevention Leadership Award in recognition of the team's accomplishments in developing a voluntary program to significantly reduce pesticide exposures to farm workers, families, and sensitive environments. Mike and the DRT Team developed the program under EPA's Environmental Technology Verification Program and leveraged its capabilities by working closely with technical experts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, universities and industry in the United States and other countries. The team developed a test method that is scientifically valid, practical, affordable, and can be used by multiple testing facilities to provide uniform results.

### **Former STAR grantee Sonia Kreidenweis Receives Sinclair Award**

The David Sinclair Award recognizes sustained excellence in aerosol research and technology. Sonia was PI for the grant "Improved Treatment of Atmospheric Organic Particulate Matter Concentrations from Biomass Combustion Emissions" funded through the 2007 RFA "Sources and Atmospheric Formation of Organic Particulate Matter." She is a professor of atmospheric science at Colorado State University.

### **PIP5 Stage 1 Awardees Announced**

Yesterday, Dr. Burke announced awards for the latest round of Pathfinder Innovation Projects. From protecting pollinator health, to exploring the environmental exposome, to improving modeling of water quality across entire watersheds, these projects cover the breadth of public health and environmental science. Stage 1 awardees will receive a small amount of funding and will have four months to explore their proposed potentially game-changing ideas. If successful, these awardees will be eligible for Stage 2 funding in Spring 2016 of up to \$100,000. Congratulations to the Stage 1 awardees.

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## **In the Community:**

### **NHSRC Provides Technical Support to Virginia High School Science Fair Project**

Responding to a request by the Office of Environmental Education, NHSRC drinking water subject matter experts provided technical support to a Virginia High School science fair project. NHSRC staff provided students at Chantilly High School in Fairfax County, VA information about homeland security research tools, including manuals for event detection software, and time-stamped water quality sensor datasets developed by homeland researchers to test software during development. The students are looking at using the data to train a Microsoft, cloud-based system and then compare the behavior to detect anomalies.

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## Faces of ORD: NERL's Breanne Benton

Every other issue of the EPA Weekly Compass features one of ORD's outstanding employees. If you would like to nominate someone to be featured, please contact Kelsey Maloney or Megan Maguire.



**Name: Breanne Benton**

**Job/Position: Technical Information Manager**

**L/C/O or Program: NERL, Ecosystems Research Division**

**1. When did you start at EPA?** My journey to the EPA started in 2008 when I left a position with the Social Security Administration to move to Athens, GA. My husband had been offered a faculty position at the University of Georgia, it was a dream job for him and I wanted to get my master's degree, so I decided to leave the SSA; after all once I had a master's degree it would be easy to reenter the federal service....

Three years, one degree, and a massive recession later, a much more humble Breanne was thrilled to get a job at the EPA. Not only do I have a great job in Athens at an agency I have always wanted to work at, but I have wonderful coworkers who make me laugh everyday – I am very lucky.

**2. What's the most interesting thing about your job?** I am a Technical Information Manager (TIM), responsible for the coordination of my division's scientific and technical information clearance process. I manage STICS and upload entries into Science Inventory. Let me tell you, there are times when my workday seems like a Michael Bay movie. But seriously, I am proud of my small part in the process of sharing NERL's important research.

**3. What's the most interesting thing in your workspace?** I have a lot of my son Mason's artwork displayed around my office. He is only two so, to me, his pictures just look like a bunch of squiggly lines; but Mason assures me that he is a surrealist automatism prodigy who will not be stifled by my bourgeois tastes.

**4. What's your favorite thing to do (besides come to work)?** I really enjoy living in Athens, GA – it is a great little town with a lot to offer. I love going downtown with my family, sampling the delicious food and drink available, listening to music, and even going to football games on Saturdays in the fall.

**5. What's your favorite lunch spot?** That entirely depends on if the University of Georgia is in session. If there are no students clogging up the streets and parking spots, then I can easily get downtown for lunch. My favorite place to have lunch in downtown Athens is Teds Most Best, a pizza place with a wonderful patio. The owners of Teds put in what they thought would be a bocce court, but has been embraced by the children of Athens as a giant sandbox. I can have a delicious pizza while watching my son play, and then zip back to work and leave my husband to deal with cleaning up a filthy and sandy toddler.

**6. If you could have one superpower, what would it be?** The ability to time travel. I love history, I find the idea of going to the Chicago World's Fair or walking through downtown New York in the 1930s, to be absolutely thrilling.

**7. What was your best Halloween costume?** This is a really hard question for me because I LOVE Halloween and have had some great costumes. Last year was my son's first Halloween where he got really excited by the process, it was so fun, and as a result I will always love the halfhearted Teddy Roosevelt costume I threw together at the last minute to compliment his bear costume.

But an old friend recently posted a picture of us trick or treating in 1992, when I went as then president George H Bush. That has to be the weirdest costume I have ever worn. What 11 year old decides they want to be George H Bush and cons their friend into being Barbara?